

# Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE September 20, 2024

TO The Honorable Mayor and Dallas City Council

SUBJECT **Consideration of Legislative Priorities for the 119<sup>th</sup> Congress and 89<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature Update**

On Wednesday, September 18, the Dallas City Council received a briefing by the Office of Government Affairs in collaboration with the City Attorney's Office regarding consideration of the city's legislative priorities for the 119th Congress and 89th Texas Legislature.

City Council received an overview of the legislative program development process, communication and stakeholder engagement, legislative environment compatibility, all priorities submitted, along with staff recommendations, that began in Fall 2023. At that time, the Office of Government Affairs sent out a request to all City Council Members, committees, city staff, and external stakeholders to submit their proposed legislative priorities for City Council's consideration. All submitted priorities were vetted through various city departments, eight standing committees, the Ad Hoc Committee on Legislative Affairs, and City Council.

At the September 18, 2024, briefing, City Council directed staff to develop a hybrid program that encompasses the entirety of the City Council's legislative goals, considering various factors. Attached please find the draft hybrid state legislative program incorporating the City Council's feedback. The City Council is scheduled to consider taking action on the draft state and federal legislative programs on Wednesday, September 25 (Agenda Items #40-41).

Should you have any questions or comments regarding state or federal legislative programs, please contact Carrie Rogers, Director of Government Affairs, at [Carrie.Rogers@dallas.gov](mailto:Carrie.Rogers@dallas.gov).

Sincerely,



Carrie Rogers  
Director, Office of Government Affairs

c: Kimberly Bizzor Tolbert, City Manager (I)  
Mark Swann, City Auditor  
Billerae Johnson, City Secretary  
Preston Robinson, Administrative Judge  
Dominique Artis, Chief of Public Safety (I)  
Dev Rastogi, Assistant City Manager  
M. Elizabeth (Liz) Cedillo-Pereira, Assistant City Manager

Alina Ciocan, Assistant City Manager  
Donzell Gipson, Assistant City Manager (I)  
Robin Bentley, Assistant City Manager (I)  
Jack Ireland, Chief Financial Officer  
Elizabeth Saab, Chief of Strategy, Engagement, and Alignment (I)  
Directors and Assistant Directors  
Office of Government Affairs

# Draft Federal Legislative Program – Option 2A



**Maintain local authority  
to respond to the unique needs of the Dallas community.**

# DRAFT



Provide additional tools for local law enforcement agencies to ensure public safety for Dallas.

Increase funding for Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI).

Increase protections and resources for domestic violence and human trafficking survivors.

Modernize law enforcement tools to include safer technologies.

Secure protections for residents at greatest risk of displacement and tools to address affordable housing.

Expand tools for seniors to age in place.

Modernize and increase funding for HOME/CDBG/LIHTC.

Seek funding for homelessness services, including cost recovery for unsheltered services provided by certain municipalities.

Promotes job creation and private investment to grow the tax base and create economic opportunities.

Strengthen Dallas' workforce development pipeline.

Expand broadband connectivity for all residents.



Deliver effective and efficient government services, while being fiscally responsible.

Maintain the tax exemption for municipal bonds, including private activity bonds, and reinstate advance refunding for municipal bonds.

Protect resident and commercial data.

Support measured use and regulation of artificial intelligence.

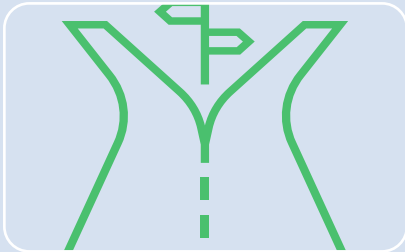


# Draft Federal Legislative Program – Option 2A



**Maintain local authority  
to respond to the unique needs of the Dallas community.**

# DRAFT



Protect and enhance the City's infrastructure network while continuing to deliver innovative and safe solutions.

Pursue tools to implement the City of Dallas' Vision Zero Mobility Safety Plan.

Support transparency in utility operations and grid reliability.

Establish regulation and reporting for autonomous vehicles.



Support resource sustainability, conservation and environmental justice to build a more resilient city.

Support funding for Dallas parks, trails, and playgrounds.

Support resource sustainability, conservation and environmental justice.



Foster community while offering recreational, educational, and cultural activities.

Study, implement, and make accessible harm reduction strategies to combat the opioid epidemic.

Promote proper mental and physical healthcare for all.



Ensure Dallas is a welcoming community for all residents, businesses, and visitors.

Protect the rights of all vulnerable communities.

Expand funding, eligibility, and access for nutrition programs.



# Draft Federal Legislative Program

## Option 2A Appendix



### PURSUE

- Maintain the tax exemption for municipal bonds, including private activity bonds, and reinstate advance refunding for municipal bonds. (GPFM)
- Modernize law enforcement tools to include safer technologies. (PS)
- Increase funding for Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI). (PS)
- Pursue tools to further implement the City of Dallas' Vision Zero mobility safety plan. (TRN)
- Expand funding, eligibility, and access for SNAP, WIC, MOW, and other nutrition programs. (WEE)
- Expand broadband connectivity for all residents. (ED)
- Expand the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Program to include blight remediation, encourage mixed-income development, and rename the program.
- Modernize and expand funding for housing programs including the Community Development Block Grant Program and the HOME Investment Partnerships Program.

# DRAFT



# Draft Federal Legislative Program

## Option 2A Appendix



### SUPPORT

1. Maintain local control
2. Expand broadband connectivity for all residents.
3. Increase protections, support and resources to prevent domestic violence and human trafficking survivors.
4. Grow the housing stock and preserve homeownership.
5. Support the responsible use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) initiatives that will reduce city expenses and modernize city operations.
6. Support TxDOT's efforts to improve the safety and cleanliness of state roadways.
7. Establish regulation and reporting for autonomous vehicles.
13. Support rail safety legislation to ensure transparency and protection of local communities.
14. Ensure sustainability of the State's natural resources, including lakes, reservoirs, and water supply.
15. Support growth in industries of sustainability and resiliency, including green infrastructure, waste reduction, weatherization and utilities efficiencies, deployment of solar power, and alternative fueled vehicles.
16. Protect the rights of all vulnerable communities, including LGBTQ individuals, youth, seniors, and people with disabilities.

**DRAFT**



# Draft Federal Legislative Program

## Option 2A Appendix



### MONITOR

1. Protect whistleblowers and maintain ethical standards and accountability in the workplace.
2. Establish the Department of Public Safety as the primary first responder on state highways.

# DRAFT



# Draft Federal Legislative Program Option 2A Appendix



## OPPOSE

- Any attempts to erode local control

# DRAFT



# Draft State Legislative Program – Option 2A



**Maintain local authority  
to respond to the unique needs of the Dallas community.**

# DRAFT



Provide additional tools for local law enforcement agencies to ensure public safety for Dallas.

Grow and retain our public safety workforce.

Modernize law enforcement tools to include safer technologies.

Increase protections and resources for domestic violence and human trafficking survivors.

Secure protections for residents at greatest risk of displacement and tools to address affordable housing.

Expand tools for seniors to age in place and preserve homeownership.

Enhance protections against squatting.

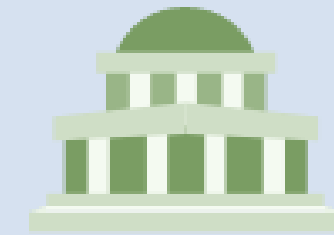
Seek funding for homelessness services, including cost recovery for unsheltered services provided by certain municipalities.

Promote job creation and private investment to grow the tax base and create economic opportunities.

Ensure Dallas receives its fair share of revenue that may be generated by gambling, if authorized by state law.

Strengthen Dallas' workforce development pipeline.

Expand broadband connectivity for all residents.



Deliver effective and efficient government services, while being fiscally responsible.

Restructure municipal DART sales tax contributions.

Support election date flexibility and ranked choice voting.

Protect resident and commercial data.

Support measured use and regulation of artificial intelligence.



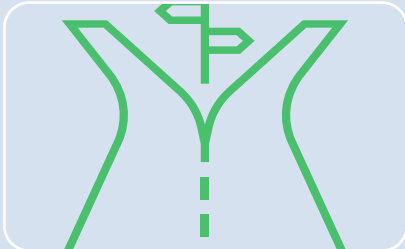


# Draft State Legislative Program – Option 2A



**Maintain local authority  
to respond to the unique needs of the Dallas community.**

# DRAFT



Protect and enhance the City's infrastructure network while continuing to deliver innovative and safe solutions.

Pursue tools to implement the City of Dallas' Vision Zero Mobility Safety Plan.

**Support full funding for DART.**

Support transparency in utility operations and grid reliability.

Establish regulations for autonomous vehicles.



Support resource sustainability, conservation, and environmental justice to build a more resilient city.

Leverage short-term car rental tax for parks and trails.

Support funding for Dallas parks, trails, and playgrounds.

Ensure sustainability of the State's natural resources.



Foster community while offering recreational, educational, and cultural activities.

Study, implement, and make accessible harm reduction strategies to combat the opioid epidemic.

Promote proper mental and physical healthcare for all.



Ensure Dallas is a welcoming community for all residents, businesses, and visitors.

Protect the rights of all vulnerable communities.

Expand funding, eligibility, and access for nutrition programs.



# Draft State Legislative Program

## Option 2A Appendix



### PURSUE (draft legislation, secure an author, get passed)

1. Maintain local control.
2. Possible DART item (either support restructuring or oppose it).
3. Define the use for Less Lethal Devices in the Texas Penal Code to ensure law enforcement agencies may use innovative life-saving technologies.
4. Enhance residential and commercial protections against squatting.
5. Pursue legislation to capture a portion of the short-term car rental tax for parks and trails improvements.
6. Pursue legislation to make accessible harm reduction strategies to combat the opioid epidemic.
7. Pursue legislation aimed at mitigating theft of communications facilities of copper, fiber, and other necessary equipment needed to ensure customer access to vital emergency communications services.
8. Amend local government election dates and authorize ranked choice voting for local government elections.

# DRAFT



# Draft State Legislative Program Option 2A Appendix



# DRAFT

## SUPPORT

1. Maintain local control.
2. Expand broadband connectivity for all residents.
3. Increase protections, support, and resources to prevent domestic violence and human trafficking survivors.
4. Grow the housing stock and preserve home ownership.
5. Protect rights and right to cure period during eviction process.
6. Strengthen Dallas' workforce development pipeline and support the growth of small business enterprises.
7. Support the responsible use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) initiatives that reduce city expenses and modernize city operations.
8. Support TxDOT's efforts to improve the safety and cleanliness of state roadways.
9. Establish regulation and reporting for autonomous vehicles.
10. Permit flexibility in lowering of the prima facie speed limit in residential areas from 30 to 25 miles per hour (*Vision Zero*)
11. Allow municipalities to designate roadways as High Injury Network (HIN) roadways. (*Vision Zero*)



# Draft State Legislative Program

## Option 2A Appendix



### SUPPORT

13. Support transparency in utility operations and grid reliability.
14. Support rail safety legislation to ensure transparency and protection of local communities.
15. Ensure sustainability of the state's natural resources, including lakes, reservoirs, and water supply.
16. Support growth in industries of sustainability and resiliency, including green infrastructure, waste reduction, weatherization and utilities efficiencies, deployment of solar power, and alternative fueled vehicles.
17. Protect the rights of all vulnerable communities, including LGBTQIA+ individuals, youth, seniors, and refugees.
18. Promote proper mental and physical healthcare for all, including participation in Medicaid.
19. Seek clarity regarding gambling.

# DRAFT



# Draft State Legislative Program

## Option 2A Appendix



### MONITOR

1. Funding and oversight relating to pensions.
2. Business opportunities to grow the tax base and ensure Dallas receives its fair share of revenue that may be generated from gambling, if authorized by state law.
3. Enhance safety for residents of senior facilities.
4. Access to a vibrant and diverse collection of materials and resources in Dallas public libraries that represent the interests and needs of all residents of Dallas. Workforce, Education, and Equity.
5. Protect whistleblowers and maintain ethical standards and accountability in the workplace.
6. Establish the Department of Public Safety as the primary first responder on state highways.
7. Expand Baby Moses Law age.
8. Authorize local law enforcement agencies to conduct driving while intoxicated checkpoints to combat the prevalence of drunk driving, motor vehicle accidents, and fatalities.
9. Amend the Public Information Act to exempt preliminary recommendations derived from early warning systems and platforms designed to support proactive employee intervention.
10. Amend statute to include a ten-year minimum sentence for aggravated assault on a peace officer.

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# Draft State Legislative Program

## Option 2A Appendix



### MONITOR

12. Adopt a statewide minimum cash bail schedule for eligible violent felonies and mandate the revocation of bail of defendants arrested for any violent felony while the defendant is awaiting trial on a previously charged violent felony.
13. Mandate that judges order participation from high-risk violent offenders in focused deterrence programs as a condition of probation or parole.
14. Protect privacy and security of resident and commercial data.
15. Require mandatory disclosure of residential and commercial real estate sales prices.
16. Ensure project delivery processes serving residents and industry are effective and transparent.
17. Establish a database of homestead exemptions.
18. Expand options for publication of legal notices.
19. Clarify the local government procurement process to include price consideration of purchasing goods.
20. Legalize marijuana and seek additional research metrics regarding its economic, health and safety effects.

# DRAFT



# Draft State Legislative Program Option 2A Appendix



## OPPOSE

1. Any attempts to erode local control.
2. DART item hold

# DRAFT



# Draft State Legislative Program Option 2A Appendix



## APPROPRIATIONS

1. Seek funding for homelessness services, including cost recovery for unsheltered services provided by municipalities as a regional service. (HHS)
2. Properly align responsibilities and seek funding for school crossing guard programs.
3. Request Weed & Seed Program funding for the City of Dallas.
4. Expand funding, eligibility, and access for SNAP, WIC, MOW, and other nutrition programs. (WEE)
5. Seek funding for Dallas parks, trails, and playgrounds.
6. Seek funding for post-incarceration programs and re-entry services and eliminate criminal history inquiries on initial employment applications.
7. Increase funding for the Department of Family and Adult Protective Services.
8. Seek funding for a childcare center at the new Dallas Police Training Facility.
9. Seek funding for high-speed rail, street cars, and other potential new transportation related initiatives.
10. Seek funding for new technology use for traffic control systems and upgrades of antiquated equipment.
11. Expand resources to foster and post foster children.

# DRAFT

